Classical sociology has conventionally been trapped within the framework of the nation-state. Today we have to think globally but without denying the importance of the national container. As a first step this means comparing different countries, but the more important step is to try to see the world as a unit unto itself, populated by organizations, networks and movements that transcend national boundaries.

How shall we construct such a global sociology? This course is based on the premise that sociology takes the standpoint of civil society (Gramsci), and that civil society emerged in the 19th century in response to the destructive expansion of markets (Polanyi). Today, the capitalist economy assumes a global character, much of which is outside the control of nation states. Its destructiveness equally transcends national boundaries as we see in such phenomena as financial crises, global warming and human trafficking. In contesting this destructiveness civil society must also transcend national boundaries as it does, potentially, in social movements, NGOs, and religion. We will use Karl Polanyi’s *The Great Transformation* and David Harvey’s *A Brief History of Neoliberalism* to frame the three parts of the course: the global expansion of capitalism; the global logic of states; and global counter-movements.

The development of a global sociology requires not only a theory of global proportions, but a community of sociologists of a global scale, observing and analyzing the world from different places. Therefore, the course calls upon distinguished sociologists from around the world to discuss such contemporary issues as natural resource extraction, terrorism, development projects like microfinance, human rights, labor movements, and so forth.

Each week students will be given a limited amount of reading material. They will prepare short memos on the readings by the next speaker. Memos will include an analytical summary of 250 words and two questions that arise from the readings. These will be due midnight on Saturday. They will be read by the instructors and discussed on Monday when we will prepare relevant and probing questions for the Wednesday lecture. The speakers will be sociology faculty and non-sociology faculty at Berkeley as well as sociologists from around the world. Students will be required to undertake a final project that will address the issues raised by one or more of the invited speakers. Grading: participation – 30%, memos -- 40%, final project – 30%.

The invited speakers will give their lectures (or be interviewed) on Wednesdays in Dwinelle 127. They will talk for 15 minutes and then answer questions for 45 minutes. The proceedings will be recorded and downloaded onto the websites of Berkeley Youtube and the International Sociological Association.

The class meets twice a week: 12.30-2.00p.m. in Barrows 140 (Mondays) and Dwinelle 127 (Wednesdays).

There is one required book, David Harvey, *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. Each week I will provide materials on bspace relevant to the speaker.

Laleh Behbehanian (lalehb@berkeley.edu) will work with me to supervise and administer the course, and read the memos.

My office hours are 4-6p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays, Barrows 454. burawoy@berkeley.edu
SCHEDULE

January 19: INTRODUCTION

January 24: KARL POLANYI: MARKETIZATION & COUNTER-MOVEMENTS


January 26: CONVERSATION WITH PETER EVANS

January 31: DAVID HARVEY: NEOLIBERALISM


February 2: MICHAEL BURAWOY: WHAT IS GLOBAL SOCIOLOGY?

February 7: David Harvey, *A Brief History of Neoliberalism* (chapters 3 & 4)

February 9: CONVERSATION WITH DAVID HARVEY

PART I: GLOBAL CAPITALISM

February 14 & 16: MICHAEL WATTS: CAPITALISM AND NATURAL RESOURCES


February 23: ANANYA ROY: POVERTY CAPITAL


February 28 & March 2: WALDEN BELLO: GLOBAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS


March 7 & 9: CHING KWAN LEE: THE ENIGMA of CHINESE CAPITALISM

  • Harvey, David. 2005. *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Chapter 5)

**PART II: GLOBAL LOGIC of STATES**

March 14 and 16: SARI HANAFI: THE POLITICS of “SPACIO-CIDE” in PALESTINE


March 21 and 23: SPRING BREAK

March 28 and 30: LALEH BEHBEHANIAN: US COUNTER-TERRORISM as a GLOBAL PROJECT


**PART III: GLOBAL COUNTER-MOVEMENTS**

April 4 and 6: PETER EVANS: COUNTER-HEGEMONIC GLOBALIZATION


April 11 and 13: EDDIE WEBSTER: TRANSNATIONAL LABOR MOVEMENTS


April 18 and 20: AMITA BAVISKAR: The POLITICS of ENVIRONMENTALISM


April 25 and 27:  ERIK OLIN WRIGHT: REAL UTOPIAS


May 2 and 4:  CESAR RODRIGUEZ-GARAVITO: SOCIAL MINEFIELDS in LATIN AMERICA


May 6:  CONCLUSION: TOWARDS A GLOBAL SOCIOLOGY